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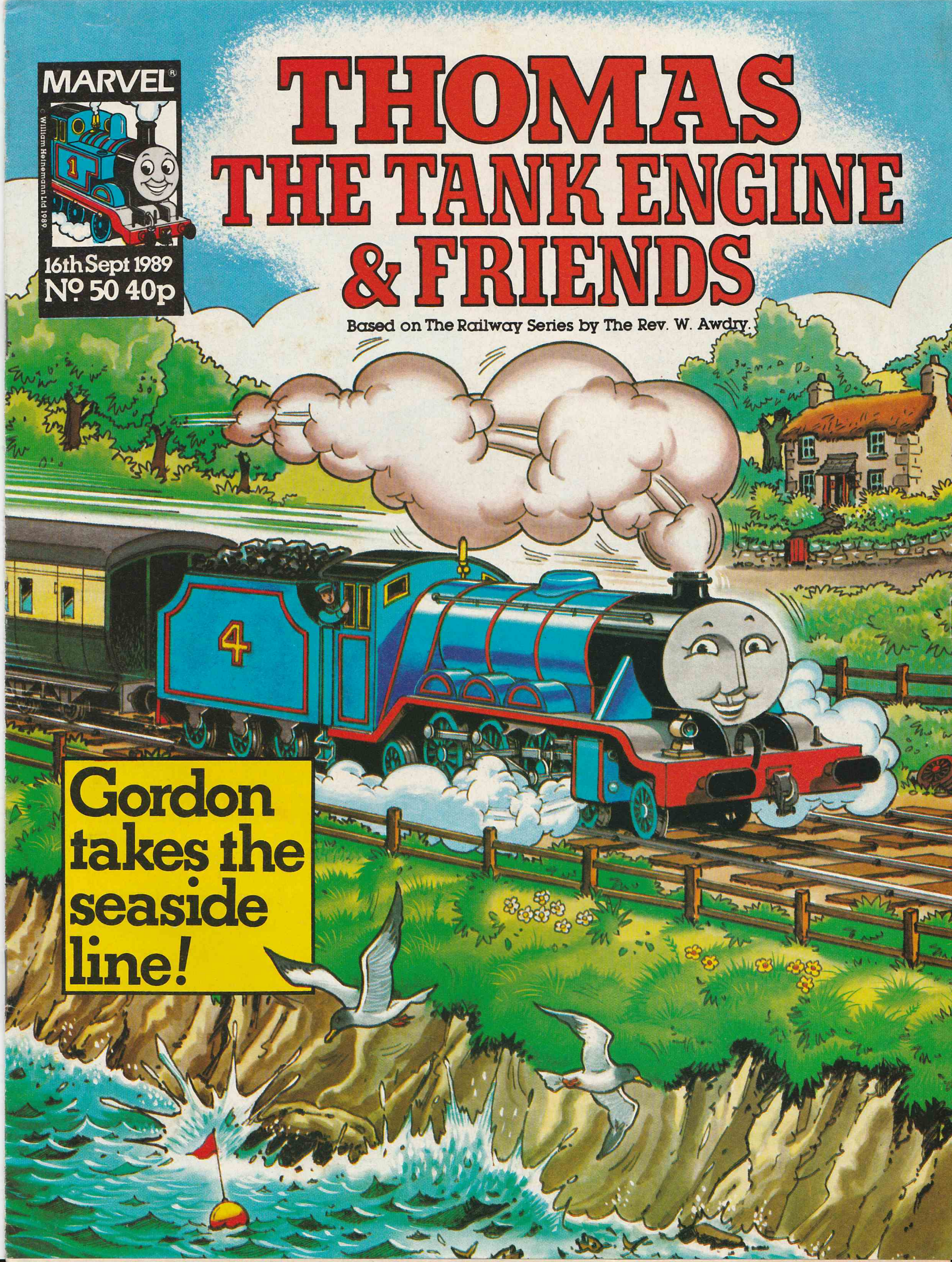
No 50 40p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

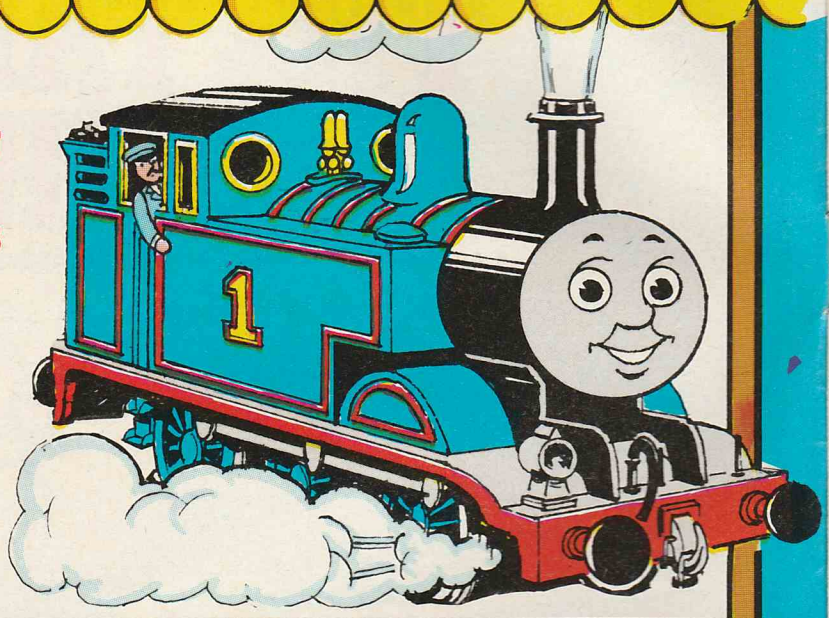
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Gordon takes the seaside line!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! There is trouble on the line running along the coast of the Island of Sodor. Henry has taken a very heavy goods train over a weak part of the track and has got stuck. Oh dear! Now he is left stranded above the sea. He must be saved! Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

By taking out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Details are on page 17!

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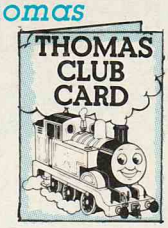


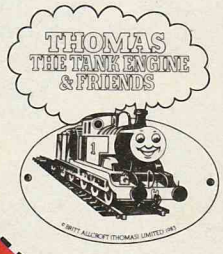
Please allow 28 days for delivery of your very own little black and white membership card plus number!

HELLO THERE!

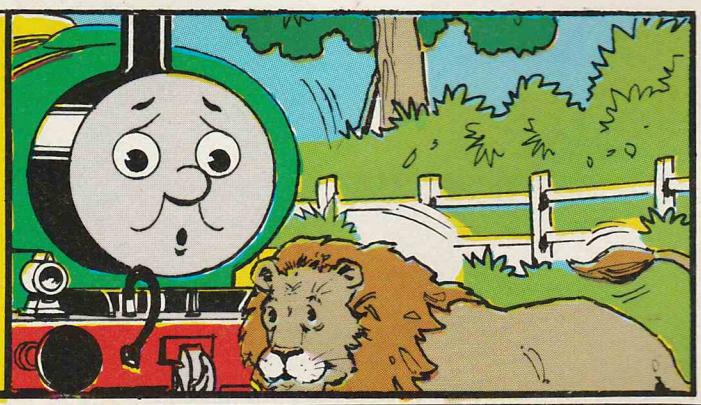
The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

David Richardson (15517), aged 5, **Anthony Reid**, **Craig Murphy**, **Martyn** and **Stuart Dawson**, aged 9, and **Guy Morgan**, aged 3, who lives in Thailand.

If you'd like a friendly hello on this page, just send your name to the Fat Controller at the address on the letters page!



In our next issue: Percy has a shock when he finds an escaped lion on his line!



THOMAS TOKEN

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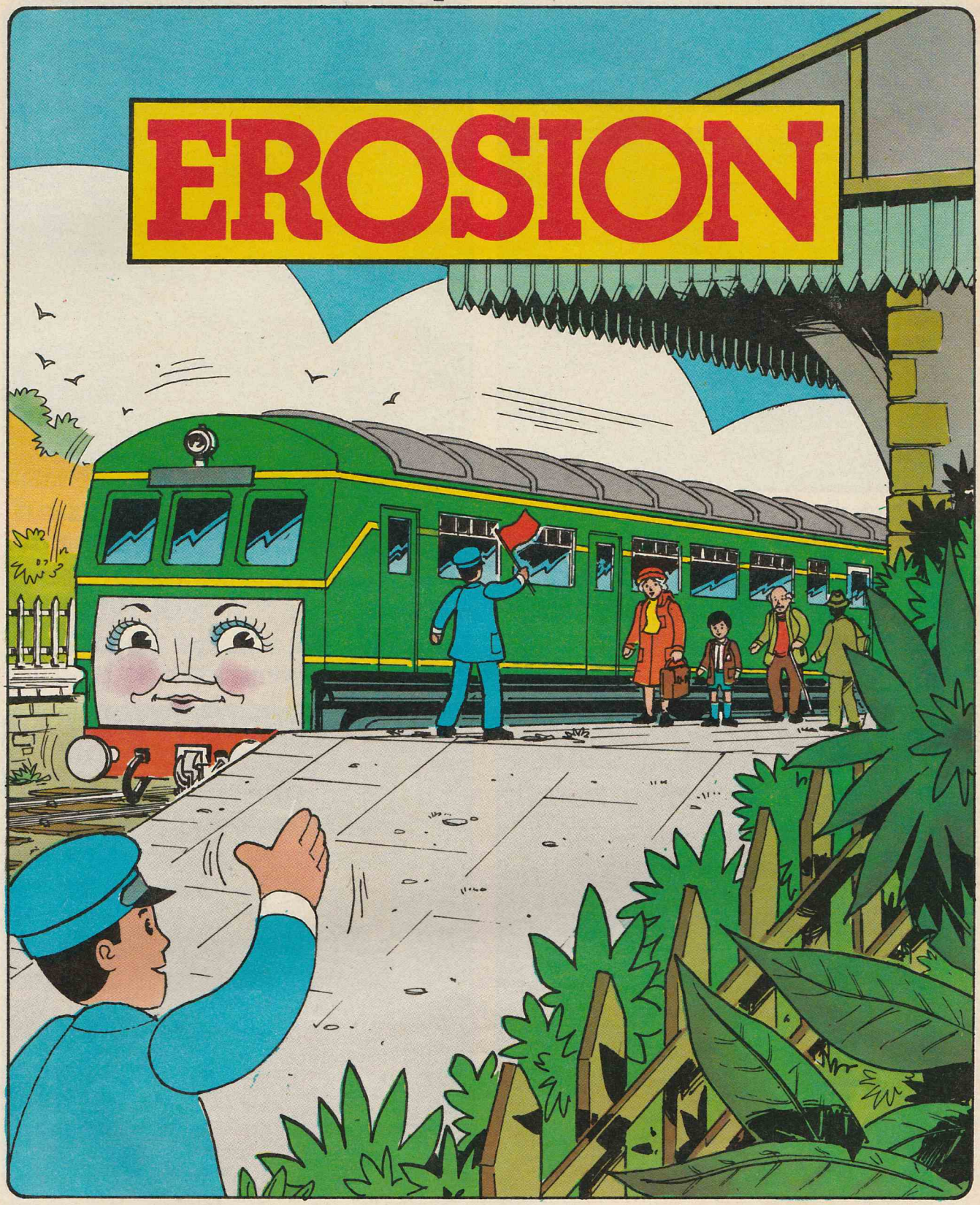
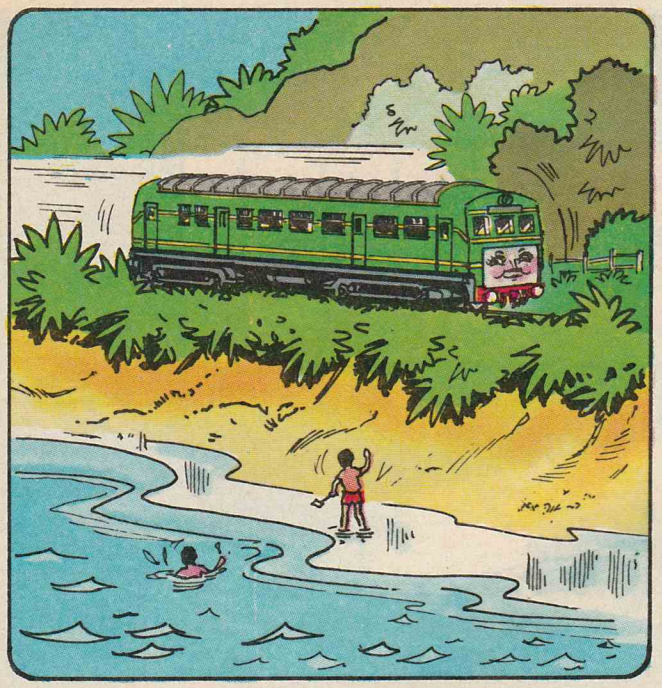
ABC

A listen and look story!

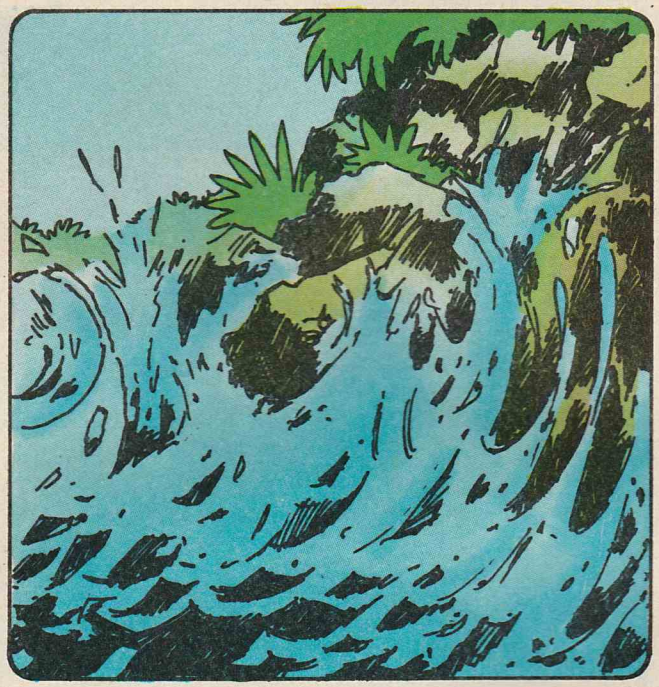


1. Daisy is a diesel railcar and she is very happy on the Island of Sodor. She likes to think of herself as being thoroughly modern and right up to date!

2. But Daisy is also Really Useful. The passengers like her too, because she has a spacious and comfortable compartment with lovely big windows to see the view.

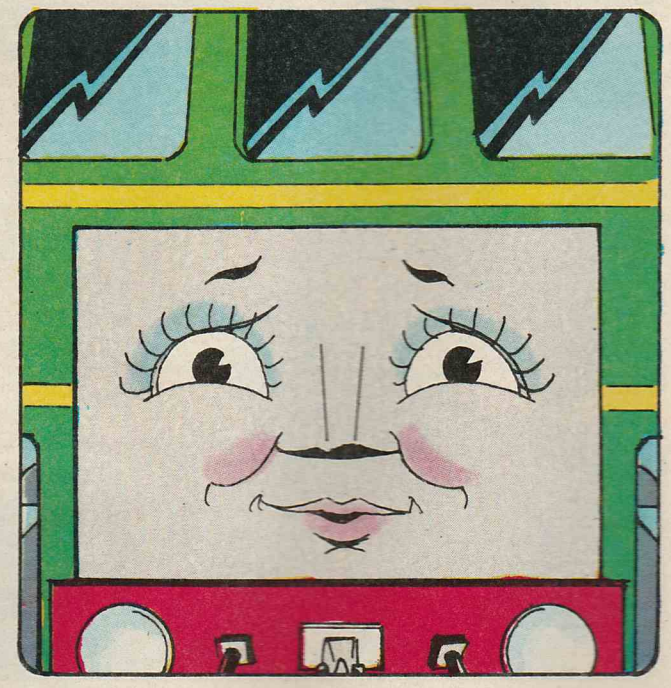


3. One day Daisy was working on the line that runs along the coast of Sodor. The line passes by the beaches before it climbs up the slopes.

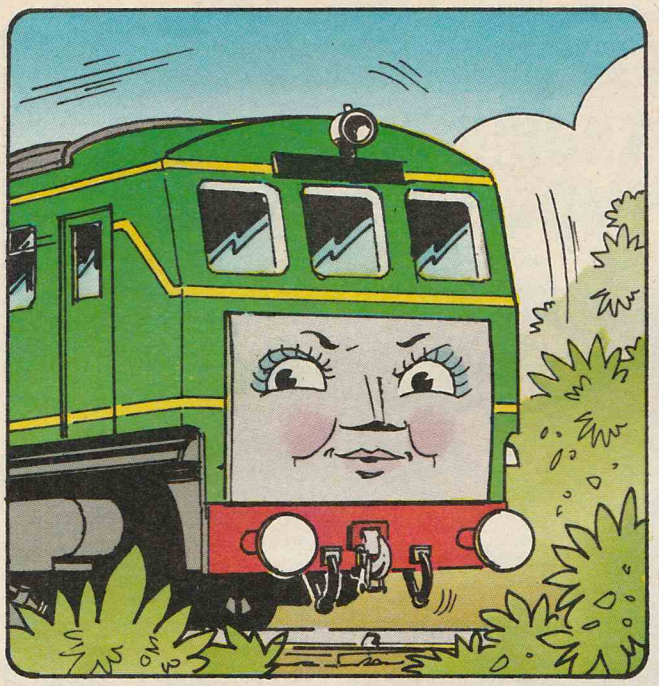


4. There had been storms on the island over the past few days. The sea was high and the waves made lovely sounds as they splashed against the rocks.

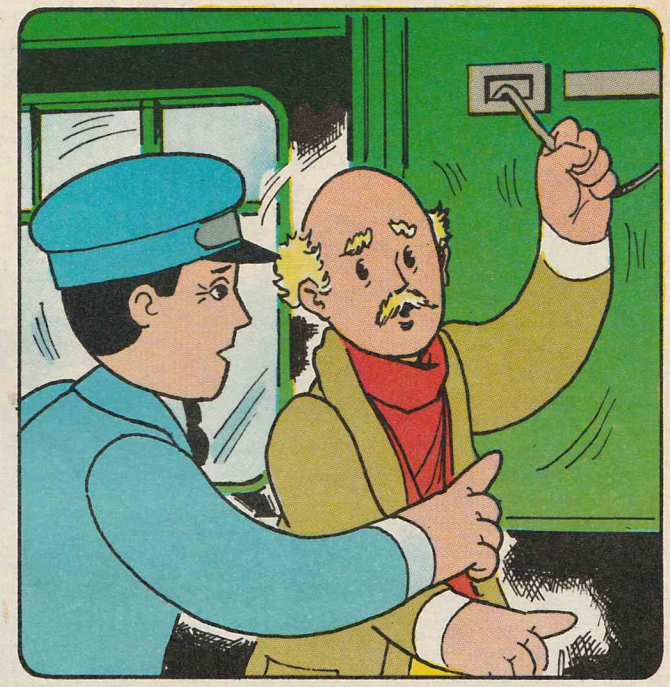
5. The passengers seemed to be enjoying the journey. Out of the windows they could see where the storms had brought the land and rocks sliding down into the sea.



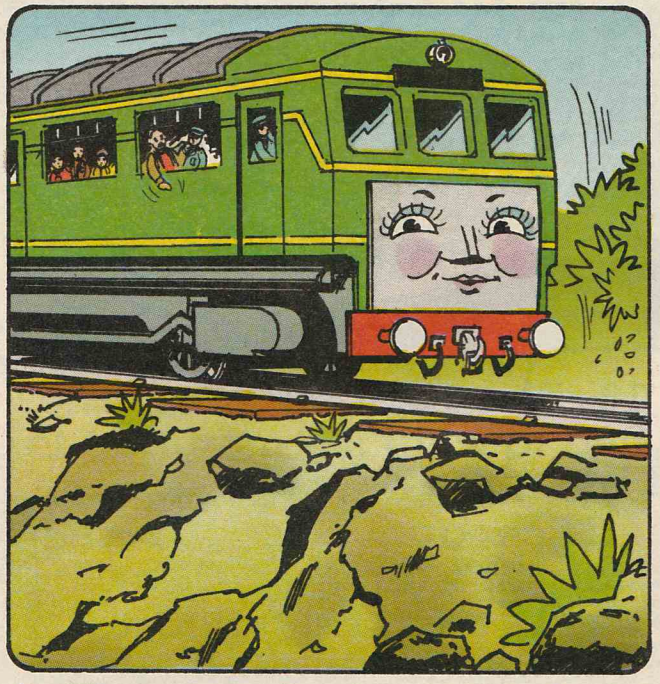
6. Daisy was making fine progress along the slopes, when all of a sudden someone pulled the emergency cord. **CLANG! CLANG!** rang the alarm bell.



7. Daisy's driver put on the brakes and Daisy came to a stop. The guard went quickly through the compartment to see who had pulled the emergency cord.



8. It was an old man who had caused the railcar to stop. He stood by the window. "What seems to be the problem?" asked the guard.



9. The man looked worried. "I'm very concerned by the erosion on these slopes," he said. "It is dangerously near to the track. Has it been examined recently?"

10. The guard looked out of the window. "Those are just land slides. That happens around here all the time," he said. He asked the man to sit down.

11. The old man was very cross. When they arrived at the big station, he went to see the Fat Controller in his office. He told the Fat Controller what he had seen and told him how the guard wouldn't listen to him. "I'm a geological surveyor," he explained. "In my opinion that track is potentially dangerous to heavy traffic."

12. The Fat Controller listened to what the man had to say. He decided to take his advice and close the seaside line until the erosion had been investigated. But it was already too late. Henry had gone out with a goods train and under his weight the weakened track had buckled! Poor Henry was left stranded on the slopes.

The story continues on page 13!

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Mrs Pearson, a teacher whose son Thomas aged 4, is a Humpty Dumpty Club member.

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The Fastest Engine

Thomas was tired of listening to Gordon boast how fast he was.

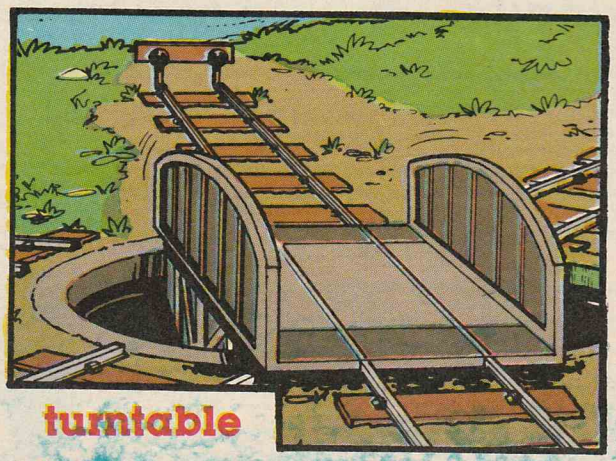
One day, Thomas overheard the Fat Controller talking to a workman. "We're having problems with the turntable at the big station, at the other end of the line," he said. This gave Thomas the chance to play a cheeky trick on Gordon.

"We both have to take passengers to the big station at the other end of the line," Thomas said, as the two engines were made ready for the day's work. "We both leave at the same time. You on the main line, while I travel on my branch line."

"So?" asked Gordon, barely listening.

"So, I'm sure I'll be back here first, said Thomas.

How Gordon laughed at this. He thought Thomas was a very silly engine. But he agreed to the race, to teach Thomas a lesson.



turntable

Gordon easily reached the big station first. Thomas was nowhere to be seen.

The big stations at both ends of the line each have a turntable. This is to allow the Tender Engines to be

turned round. If they were to go fast backwards, it could be dangerous.

After his coaches had been uncoupled, Gordon ran backwards to the turntable. It was only just big enough for him.

The fireman tried to turn the handle of the turntable, but nothing happened. "It's stuck," he shouted.

A workman explained that the turntable wasn't working properly. "We're still trying to fix it," he said.

"I wouldn't sit there too long, Gordon," Thomas shouted. "Otherwise I shall beat you home."

Tank Engines like Thomas don't need to use a turntable. They can go just as well backwards as forwards.

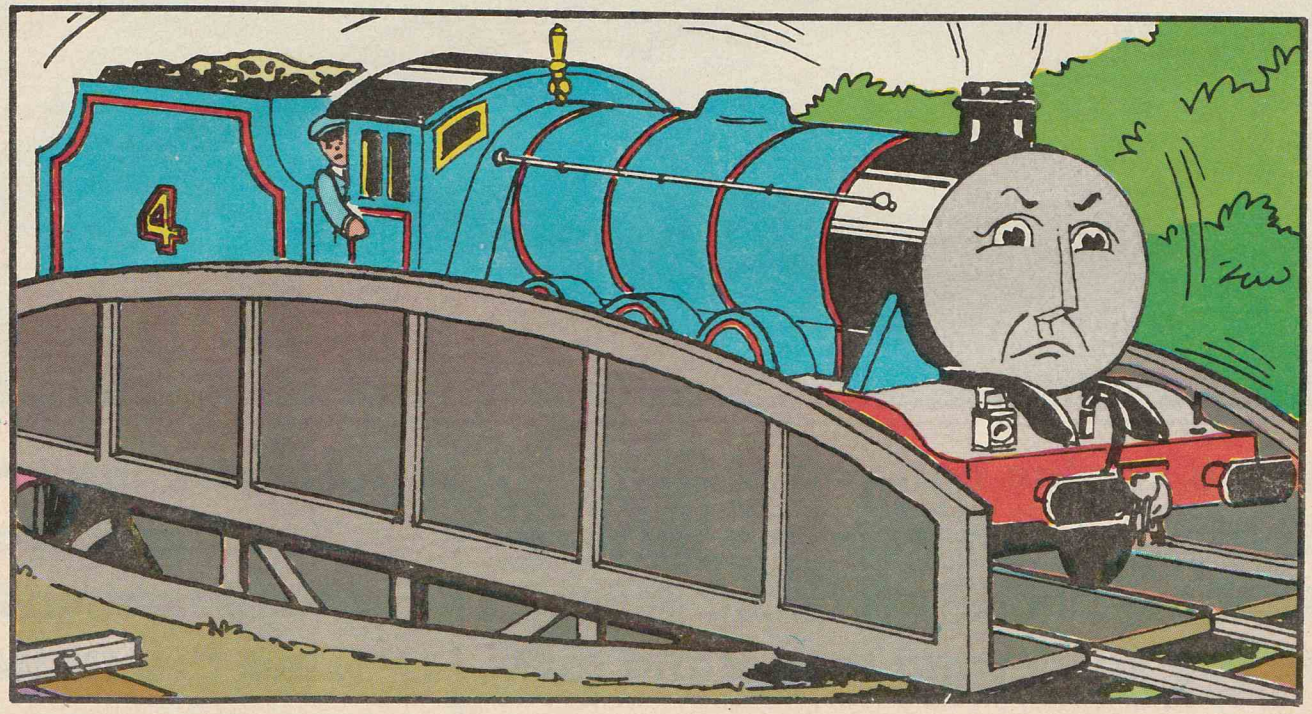
With a cheery whistle, Thomas puffed away from the station.

When Gordon eventually returned to the station, late at night, Thomas was already waiting for him.

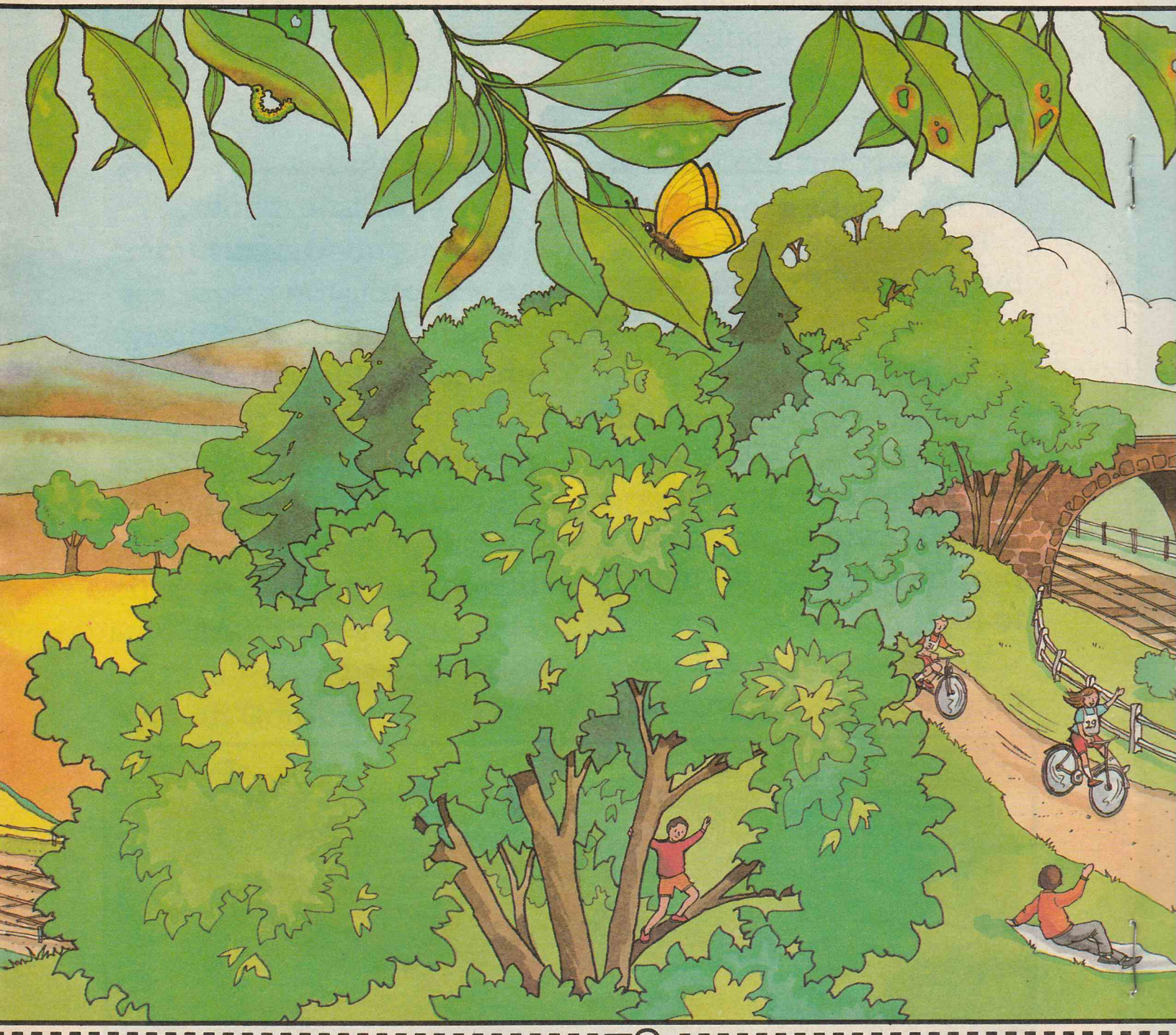
"I won," he laughed happily. "I must be faster than you, Gordon."

For once, Gordon had nothing to say.

THE END



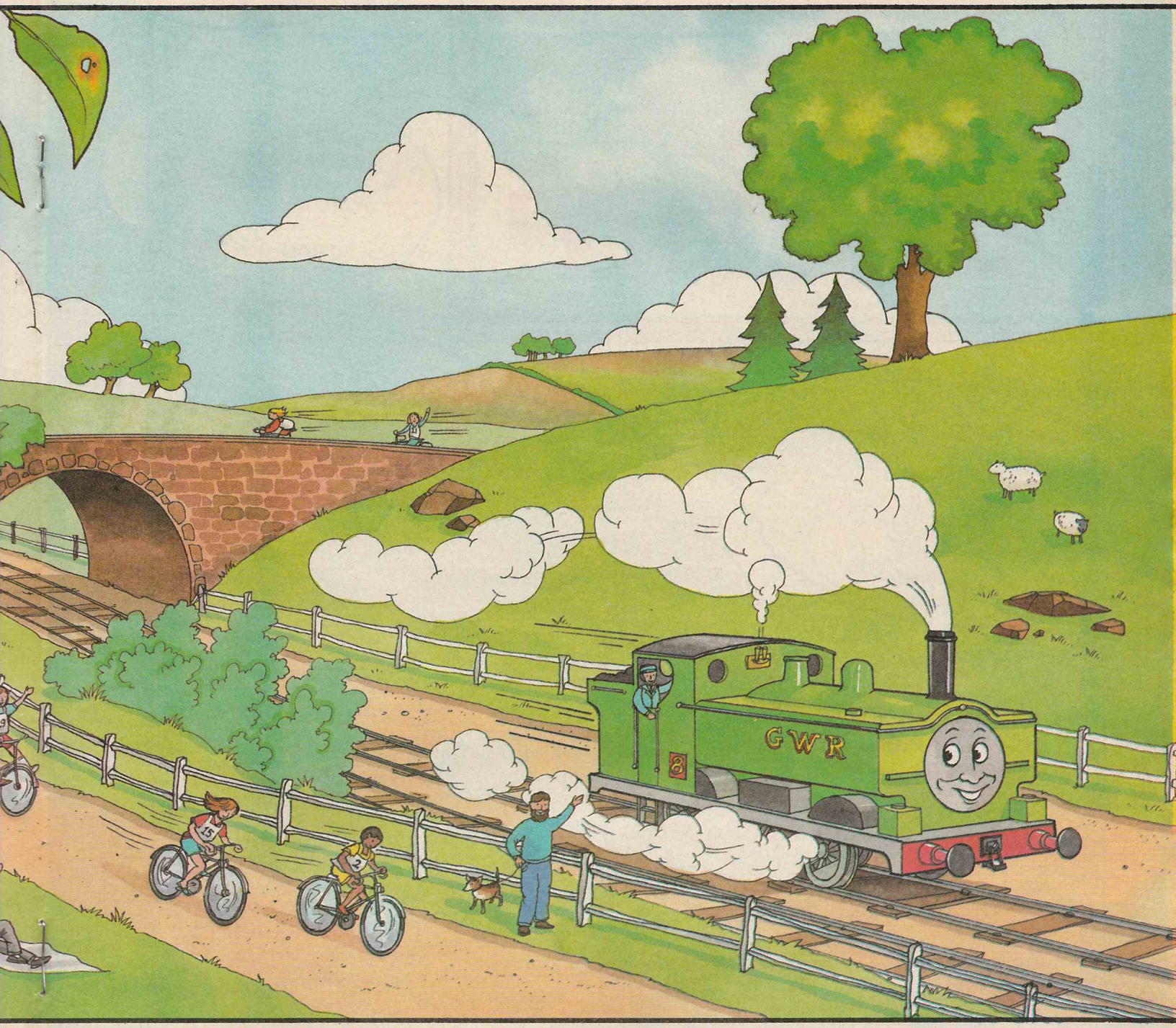
The bicycle



Which engine can you see?
What number is he?
What are the letters on his side?
Do you know what they stand for?

Point to the two differ
How many cyclists ca
What has made holes
Find five fir trees!

e race!



lifferent animals!

ts can you see?

holes in the big leaves?

!

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next issue: Past the school outing!

JAMES'S JOKE GALLERY!

Why is an octopus a good fighter?
Because he is well armed!
James, aged 9.

What has two legs and talks behind your back?
A barber!
Craig, aged 5.

Knock Knock!
Who's there?
Scot!
Scot who?
Scot nothing to do with you!
David, aged 6.

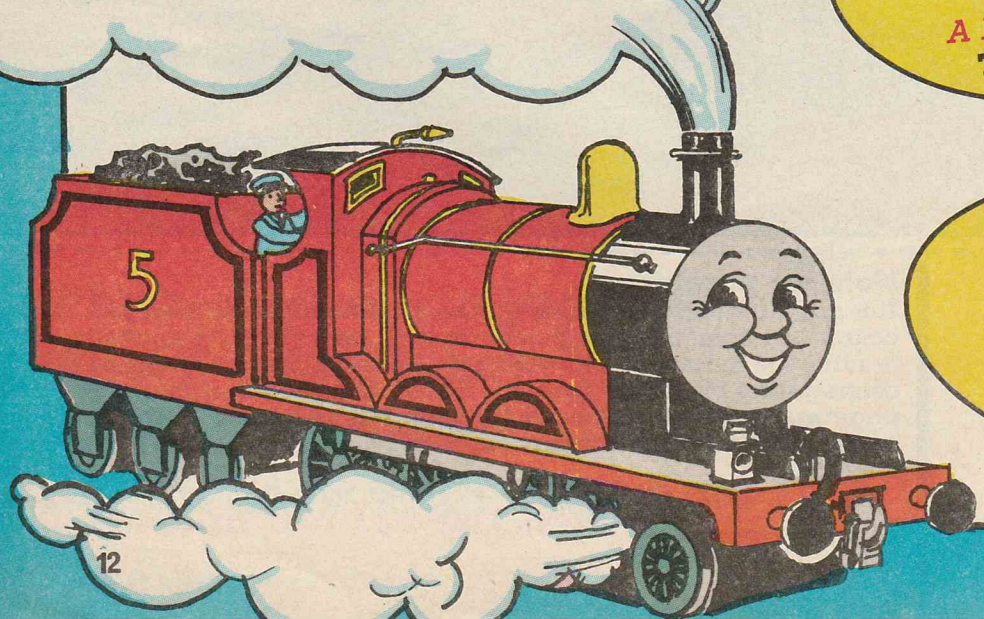
What has two heads, one tail, with four legs on one side and two on the other?
A horse being ridden side-saddle!
Louise, aged 6.

What's creamy and good for sick pigs?
Oinkment!
Michael, aged 6.

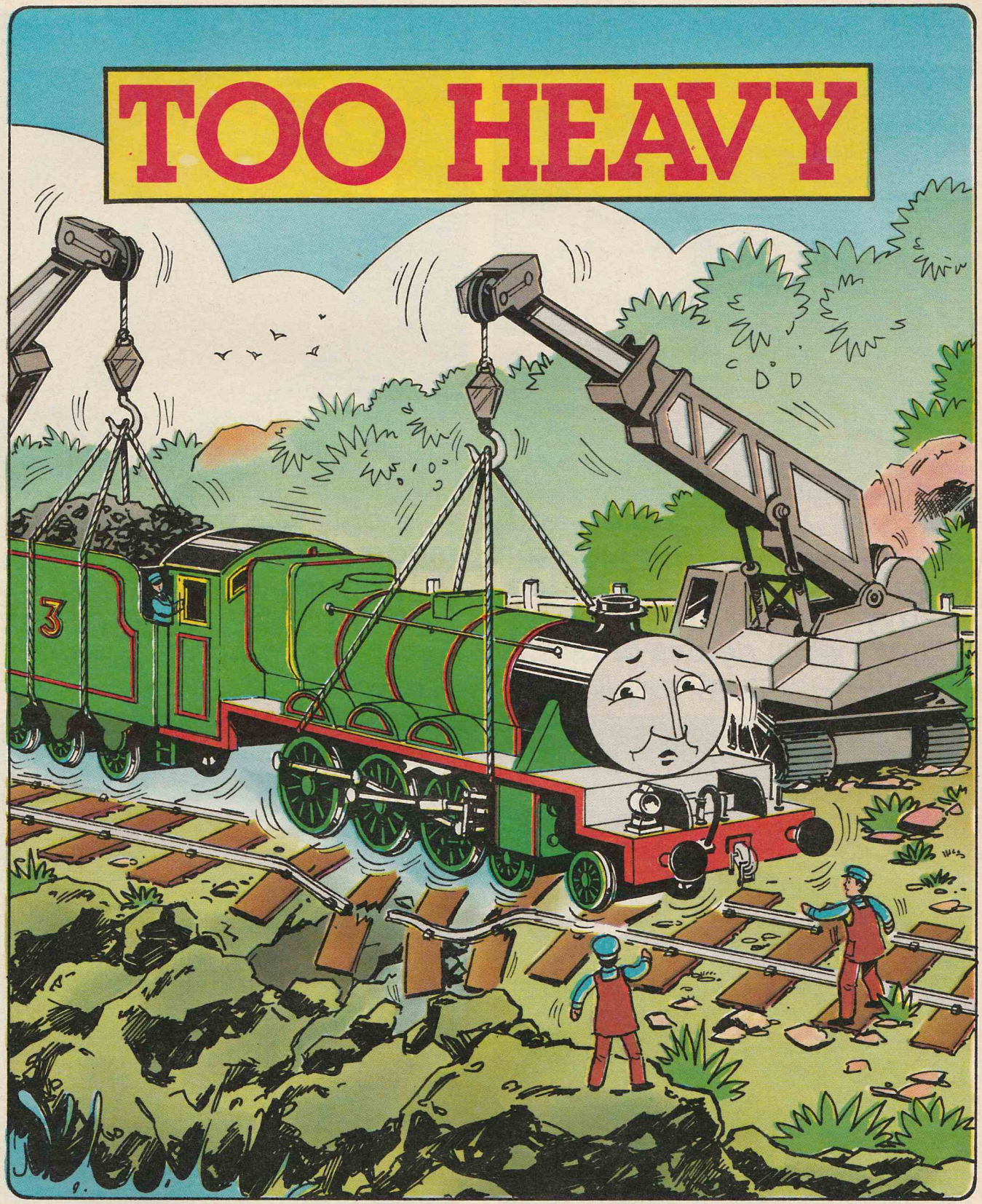
Have you got a good joke for James's Joke Gallery? Why not send it in to him at the address on the letters page?

What's blue, green, yellow, purple, brown, black and white, and good on the draw?
A box of crayons!
Terry, aged 6.

What's a cat's favourite newspaper?
Mews of the world!
Anthony, aged 8.

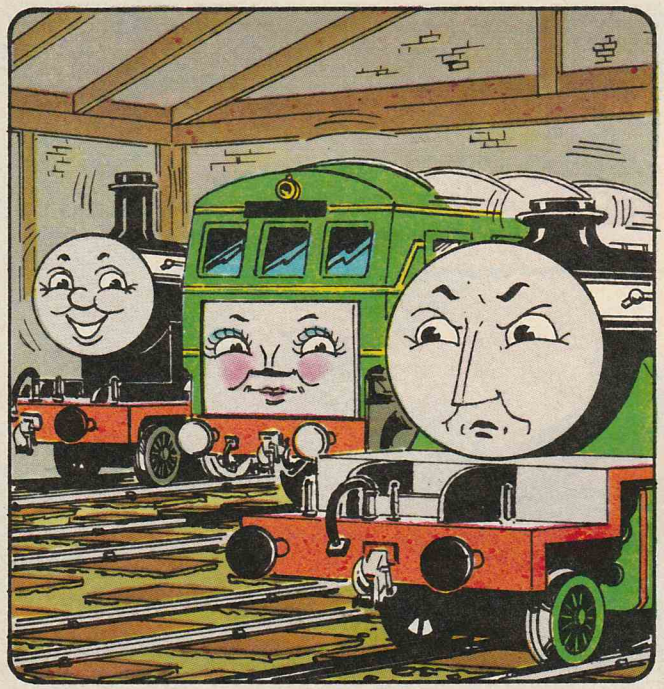


The story continues!

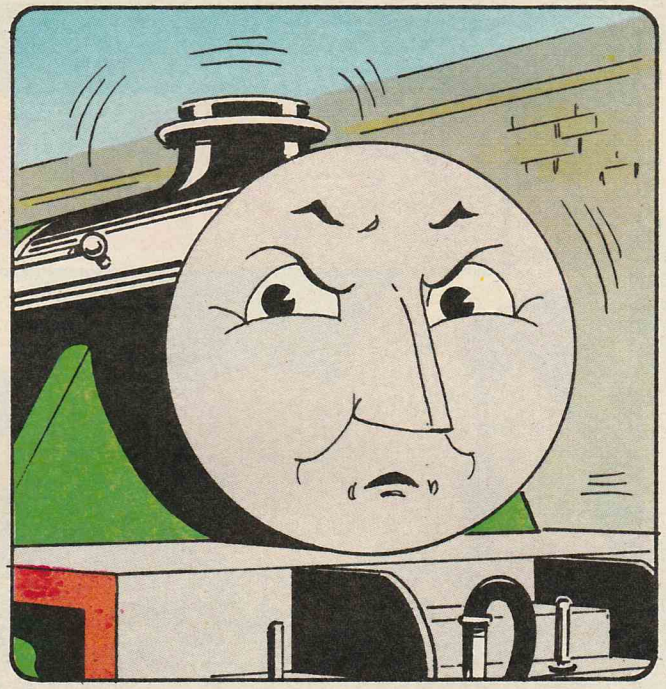


1. Poor Henry was stuck on the slopes above the sea. He had been pulling his goods train when the track had given way due to the erosion of the hillside soil.

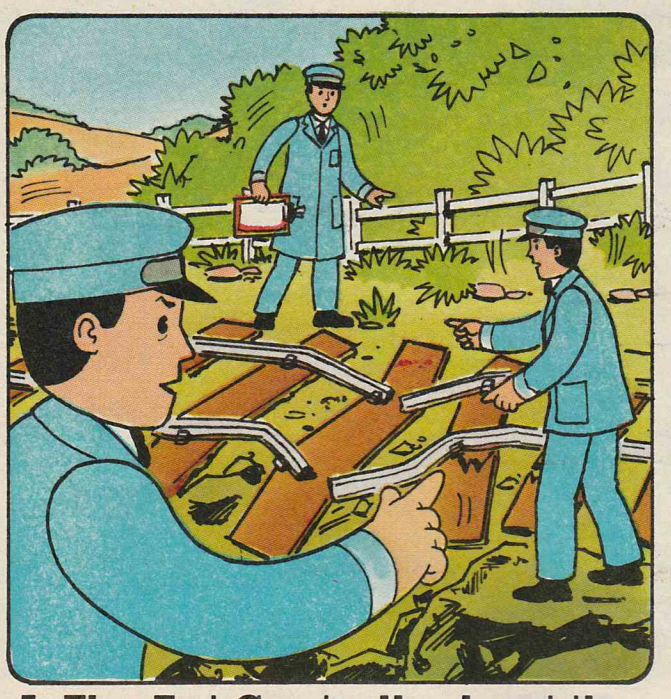
2. They had to bring the cranes out to rescue Henry. Daisy was rather embarrassed. She could have warned the other engines about the danger.



3. Daisy joined James and Gordon teasing Henry, all the same. "You're just too heavy, Henry," she teased. "That's what comes of being so old fashioned, you know!"



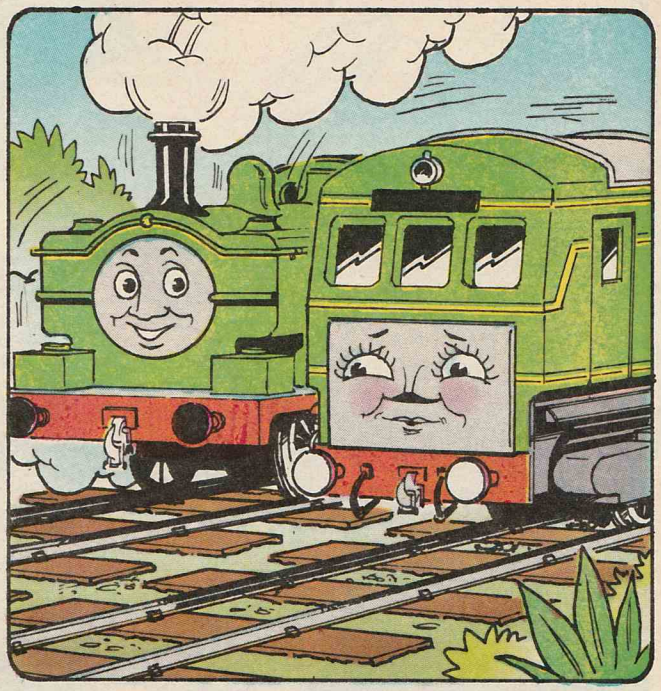
4. "If only you were light and modern like me," said Daisy. "I'd like to see you pull a heavy goods train," huffed Henry. He was fed up with always being teased.



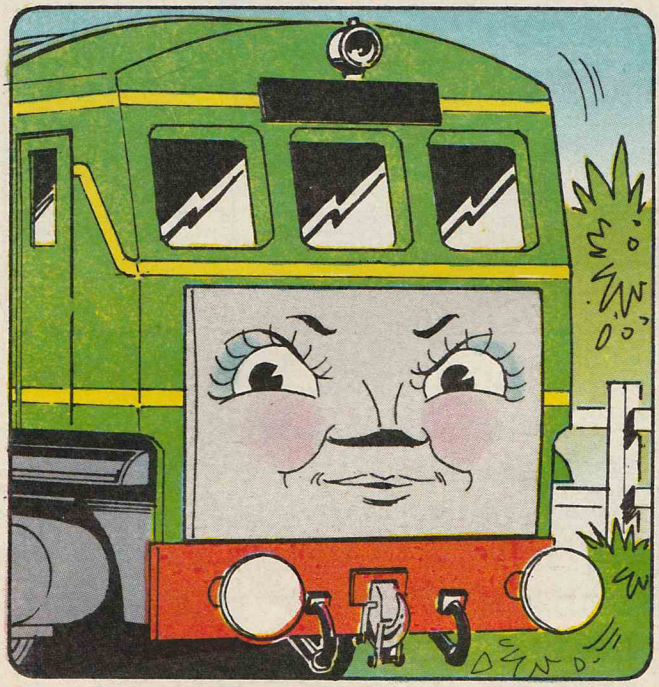
5. The Fat Controller kept the seaside line closed for the surveyors to make their inspection. They found that the erosion on the slopes was making the line unsafe.

6. Retaining walls had to be built in several places to prevent any further erosion of the soil. The men came to do the work. They planted trees and shrubs as well.

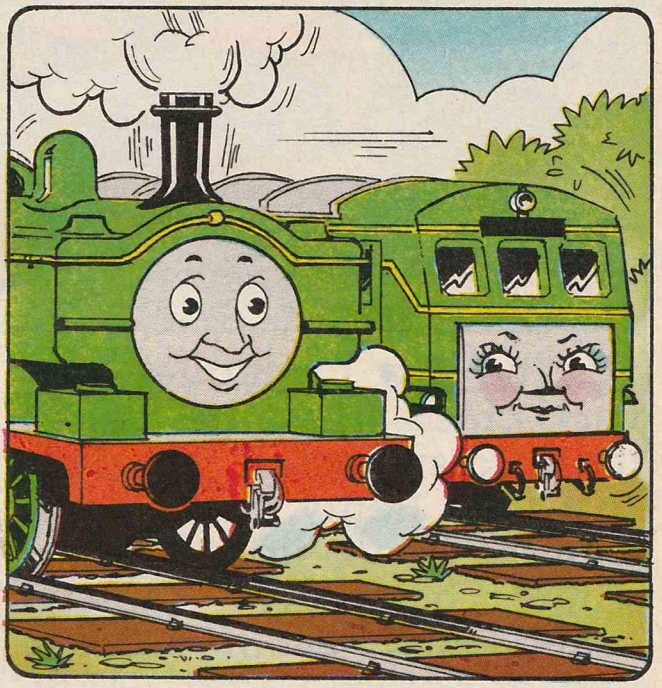
7. Their roots would grow down into the soil and help to hold it. Soon the track had all been repaired and the line was declared safe to be opened again.



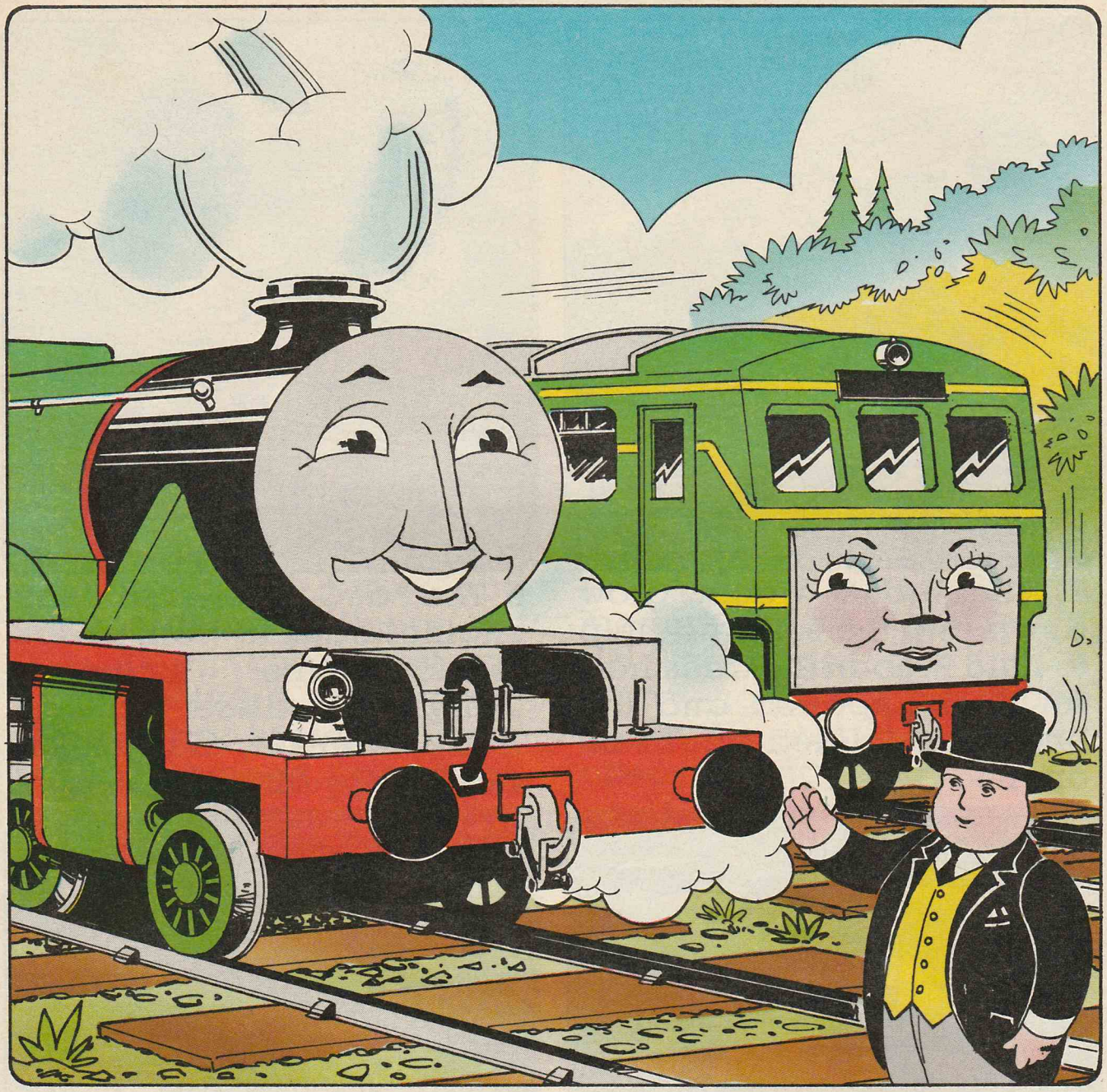
8. The Fat Controller sent the engines back to work on the seaside line, including Daisy, the diesel railcar. Daisy, however, didn't seem very happy about that.



9. "I'm er . . . highly sprung you know," she complained. "The sea breeze must have got into my parts. I can't go out today." "You're just frightened," said Duck.



10. "I am not!" protested Daisy. "You old steam types just don't understand the delicate temperament of a modern railcar like myself." "I understand," smiled Duck.



11. The Fat Controller was very cross when he heard that Daisy wasn't running. Just then Henry came back with his goods train. "Wh . . . where have you been?" asked Daisy. "On the seaside line of course," said Henry. Daisy was amazed. "Y-you're brave, Henry! Especially after what happened before," she said.

12. "Thank you," said Henry, smiling. "But it was nothing really. The line's all safe now, since the men worked on it." "Well," said Daisy, "I don't like to say it, but if a heavy old engine like you was on it, then I suppose it must be!" So Daisy went back to work on the seaside line. She wasn't quite so quick to tease Henry again.

THE END

In our next issue: The escape!

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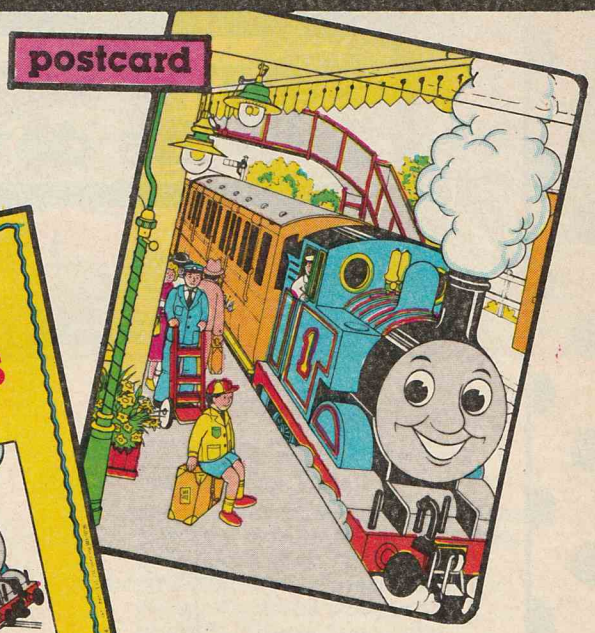
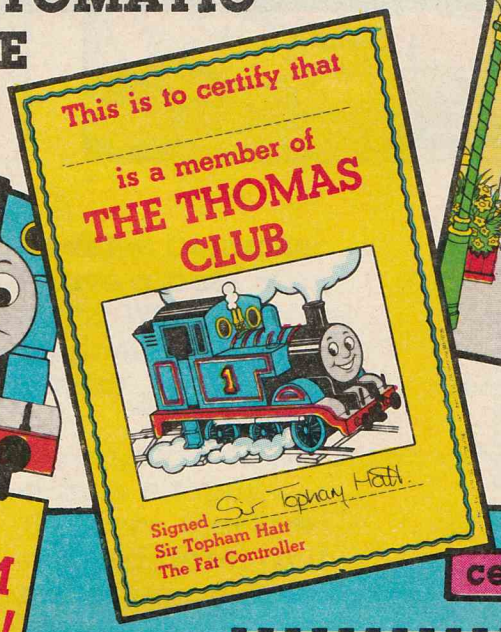
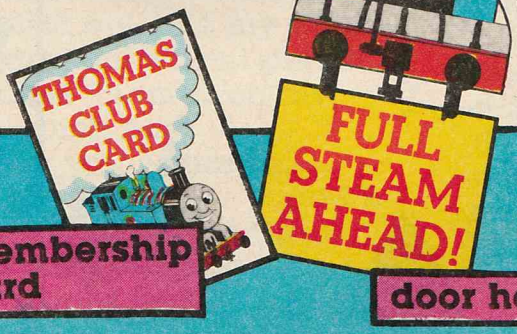


postcard



certificate



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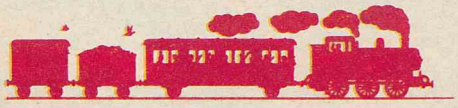

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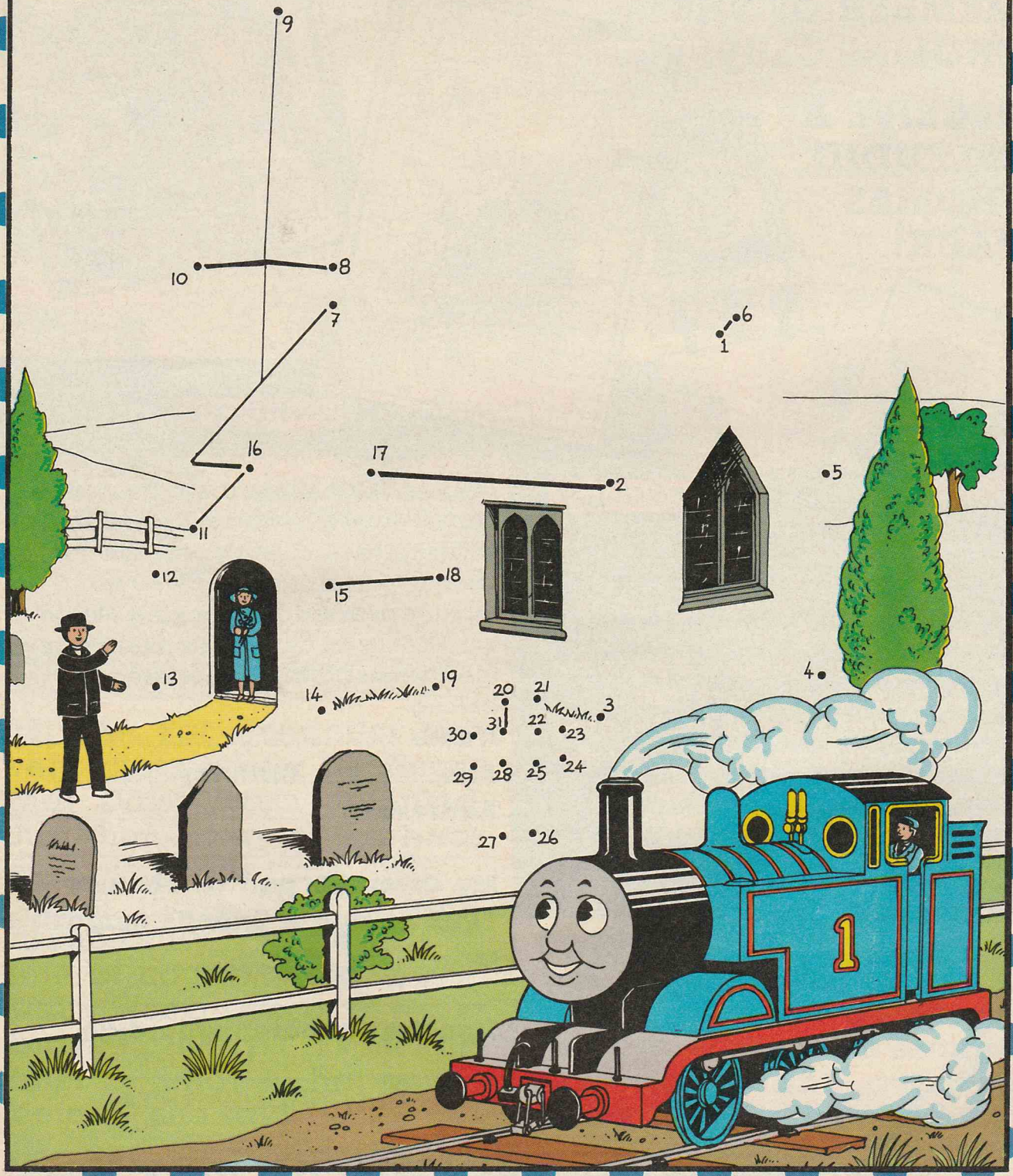
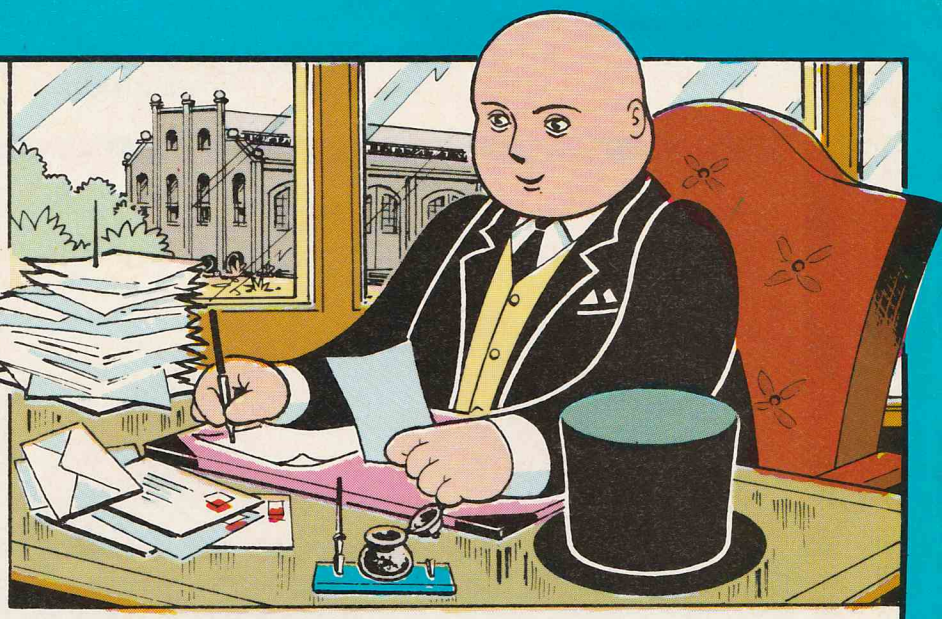
See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

JOIN THE DOTS!

What is Thomas puffing past?
Join the dots and find out fast!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do Thomas's wheels ever wear out, like my shoes wear out when I pretend to be Thomas on his branch line?
Best wishes from **Sam,** aged 3.

Thomas's wheels are made from solid steel. This means that they will last a very long time indeed. In fact, as long as the line he runs on is kept in good condition, they may never need renewing at all.

★ ★ ★ ★

Sam wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine torch from Unilite Leisure Ltd.

BATHTIME!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have a bath every night. When do your engines take their baths?

From **John.**

My engines do not have a bath exactly. However, they are washed down and scrubbed quite thoroughly, at least once a week.

EGGS! EGGS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy says that to grow up big and strong I must eat eggs for breakfast. But I don't like eggs. Does your wife cook you eggs for your breakfast?
Love from **David,** aged 4.

Yes . . . and on Tuesdays and Fridays I cook eggs for her. I must say that I enjoy them very much indeed – especially with some hot, buttered toast!

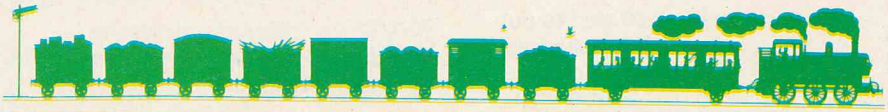
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go you to:

David Adkins, Ryan Roger Moon (22199), Gareth Mason (19078), Scott Liam West (23562), Christopher McIntosh, Karen Kelly, Nicholas Coupland (24387), Simon Larcombe (10453), Matthew Squires (6535), Christopher Thornton, James Shipp, Christopher Vieira (23886), Craig Tidswell, Jeremy Whatley, Nicholas Baker (25526), Jason Jennings (25996), Ben Osmond (28789), Chris Adams, Christopher Newton, Christopher Robert Wood (9593), Rebecca Weller (6627), Steven Flynn (5950), Matthew Reynolds, Rosie Major (27475), Gary Mowat, Nicholas Gould (3953), Malcolm Radcliffe (4860), Christopher Dunn (9264), Richard Hill (26045) and a belated birthday wish goes to David McKeown.

If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try our very best!

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt.
the Fat Controller.



Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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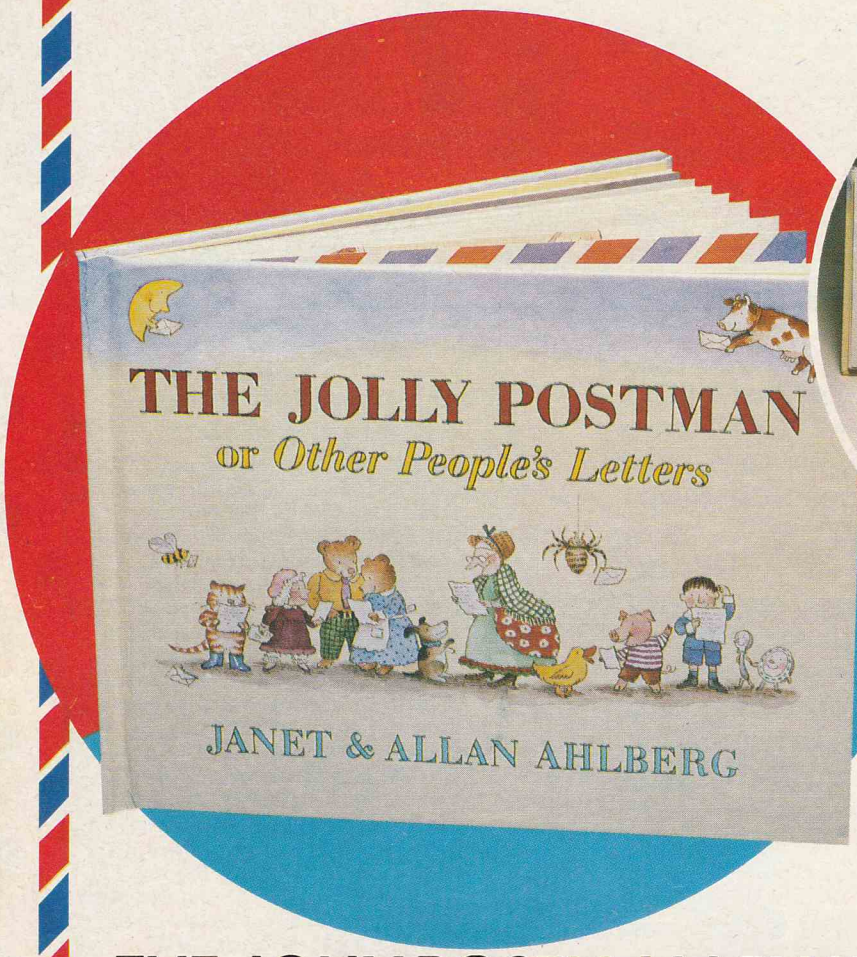

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